

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to require the use of both a zeolite and a carbonaceous adsorbent. In addition, claim 2 has been amended for purposes of consistency with claim 1.

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

Initially, the Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge Applicants' claim to domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and confirm receipt of the verified English translation of provisional application no. 60/230,704 filed January 17, 2001 in the provisional application. A copy of the verified English translation is submitted herewith.

I. Response to Rejection of Claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

At pages 2-4 of the Office Action, claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ono et al. (JP 8-081399) in view of Applicants' own admission at page 5 of the present application.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that Ono et al. in view of any admission does not teach or suggest the method of purifying tetrafluoromethane or a tetrafluoromethane product obtained by the method of the present invention.

The present invention is directed to a method of purifying tetrafluoromethane comprising contacting tetrafluoromethane containing one or more ethylene compounds, one or more hydrocarbon compounds, carbon monoxide and/or carbon dioxide as impurities with zeolite having an average pore size of 3.4 to 11 Å and an Si/Al ratio of 1.5 or less and a

carbonaceous adsorbent having an average pore size of 3.4 to 11 Å to reduce the amount of said impurities. By using the method of the present invention, a tetrafluoromethane product having a high purity is be obtained.

Ono et al. is cited by the Examiner as teaching a method for the purification of tetrafluoromethane comprising contacting crude tetrafluoromethane with zeolite or a carbonaceous adsorbent. However, Ono et al. does not disclose the combined use of a zeolite and a carbonaceous adsorbent. Particularly since Ono et al. is only concerned with the removal of trifluoromethane, there is not motivation that would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to use a combination of a zeolite and a carbonaceous adsorbent.

Therefore, Ono et al. does not teach or suggest the method of the present invention according to claim 1 which requires the combined use of a zeolite and a carbonaceous adsorbent.

In addition, as shown in Examples 1-4, when the combined use of a zeolite and a carbonaceous adsorbent are used, a tetrafluoromethane product having a higher purity than when either a zeolite or a carbonaceous adsorbent are used is obtained.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Ono et al. does not teach or suggest the present invention, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 103 rejection, and allowance of claims 1-14 are respectfully requested.

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/019,137**

Attorney Docket Q60713

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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